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Approved For Release 1999/09/07 : CIA  
CPYRGHTList of Demanded Drugs

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# *Donovan Studies Fidel Communique*

By DOM BONAFEDE  
of Our Latin America Staff

A new turn in the heart-breaking efforts to release 1,113 Cuban invasion prisoners developed Saturday, reviving cautious hopes that the Castro-held captives may be freed soon.

New York Attorney James B. Donovan, negotiator for the prisoners, reported he had received documents direct from Fidel Castro in connection with talks he recently had with the Cuban premier.

Donovan, who has insisted upon all-night security throughout his mission, declined to reveal the contents of the communique.

"I received this report and I am studying it," he told newsmen in New York.

Reportedly the Castro communique included his reply to Donovan's last offer. Donovan acknowledged that the Havana documents included a "massive list of drugs, medicines and baby foods which Castro has demanded in exchange for the prisoners."

The list was so long, he said, that it required detailed study.

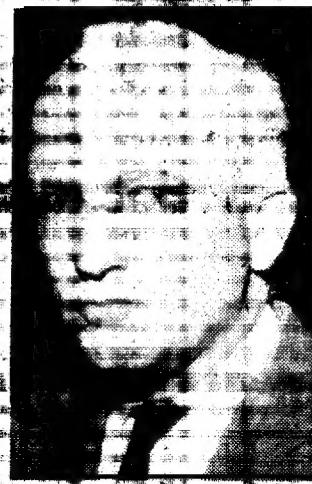
Ernesto Freyre, secretary of the Cuban Families Committee, who stayed in Havana during the negotiations, personally carried Castro's answer to Miami.

Freyre, who arrived here Friday, said the documents were given to him by Alberto More, minister of foreign commerce in the revolutionary government.

The papers were then turned over to Enrique Ruiz-Williams, another member of the committee, who flew to New York and handed them over to Donovan.

"I am very optimistic," Freyre said. "I feel the negotiations are in the last stage." Asked if he was as optimistic as Freyre, Donovan said, "I certainly hope so."

Donovan again stressed that money is involved in the



**James Donovan**  
*tight-lipped*

bargaining. Castro originally demanded 62 million dollars in cash but later agreed to accept medical supplies and foodstuffs, valued at less than his ransom figure.

Families of the prisoners in Miami welcomed the latest development but kept their optimism in check.

"We have been frustrated too many times," one mother said. "But we will always be hopeful."

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